(c) the present status of these ports?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) to (c) As far as Central Government is concerned, there are no private ports within the limits of Major Ports. As regards Minor Ports are concerned, they are under the administrative control of concerned maritime State Governments.

Construction of Bridge over Brahmaputra

2103. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether a proposal for construction of another bridge across the Brahmapurta linking Guwahati and North Guwahati was received;

(b) if so, the details of action plan finalized to implement the same; and

(c) the implementation status of the proposal for NH bypass North Lakhimpur (NH52), by-pass at Tinsukia (NH37), declaring Stillwell Road (Beyond NH 38) and connecting road between NH 37 and NH 39 across Golaghat town as National Highways?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Land acquisition provision of Rs. 1.50 crore and Rs. 2.75 crore is available in the Annual Plan 1999-2000 for by-passes at North Lakhimpur and Tinsukia respectively. Detailed estimates for both the by-passes have not been received in the Ministry from the Assam PWD so far. Due to fianancial constraints no new National Highway is contemplated at present.

Express Highway connectivity in NE Region

2104. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of projects, total outlay, allocation and achievements made to provide regional and national express highway connectivity in the North-Eastern region; and

(b) the details of proposal for international connectivity, if any, including Stillwell Road?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) There is not such express highways project.

(b) National Highways 40, 44, 62, 151 & 152 connect North Eastern States with International Borders, Stillwell Road is not a National Highway.

Payment of Government Share in Construction of Rob on NH-4

2105. SHRI V.N. GADGIL: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Government of Maharashtra has requested that 50% contribution of Government amounting to Rs. 8.59 crores should be paid immediately to CIDCO for the construction of Road Over Bridge on NH-4 near Khandeshear Railway Station; and

(b) if so, the reasons for delay in making the payment?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Request of Government of Mahartashtra has not been agreed to. Therefore, question of delay in making payment does not arise.

Theft of Ships

†2106. SHRI JANESHWAR MISRA: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the incidents regarding theft of ships is on the rise now-a-days;

(b) if so, the number of incidents occurred during the last six month; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to get rid of the pirates?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) and (b) No case of theft of ship in Indian

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.